

Message Text

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11

ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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R 100622Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5966

UNCLAS TEHRAN 2464

PLEASE PASS EXIMBANK

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BPRO, IR

SUBJ: FCIA CREDIT INSURANCE REQUEST TO COVER SALE OF
SIXTY LOCOMOTIVES TO PLAN ORGANIZATION OF THE
GOI

REF: STATE 48790

1. RE EXIMBANK REQUEST SALE OF SIXTY LOCOMOTIVES TO PLAN
ORGANIZATION, EMBASSY HAS NO PARTICULAR KNOWLEDGE OF THIS
SALE.

2. PORT CONGESTION STILL REMAINS AT VERY HIGH LEVEL DESPITE
RECENT REPORTS THAT SHIPPING CONFERENCES HAVE REDUCED OR
ELIMINATED SURCHARGES. SHIPPING QUEUES PRESENTLY 60-120
DAYS AT THREE MAJOR PORTS. PORTS AND SHIPPING ORGANIZATION,
GOVERNMENT AGENCY CHARGED WITH MANAGEMENT OF PORT OPERATIONS,
CLAIMS RAPID AMELIORATION OF PROBLEM. HOWEVER, IN EMBASSY
OPINION, REALISTIC VIEW IS THAT SERIOUS CONGESTION WILL
CONTINUE IN THE SHORT RUN(AT LEAST 18 MONTHS). PORT
PROBLEMS ARE THREEFOLD:(1) OFF-LOADING;(2) CUSTOMS
CLEARANCE AND WAREHOUSING; AND (3) ONWARD TRANSPORTA-
TION AND THERE IS NO OVERNIGHT SOLUTION TO THE LATTER
TWO.

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3. RAILROAD LINK BETWEEN TEHRAN AND TURKISH BORDER IS ON WELL-TRAVELED LINE OVER WHICH MOUNTAINOUS ROUTE MAY CLOSE FOR LANDSLIDES, FLOODS AND RELATED NATURAL PHENOMENON, WHICH SOMETIME IMPEDES SMOOTH OPERATION. THIS LINK IS ONE OF THE OLDEST PARTS OF THE RAILWAY AND IS NOT, AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, A PRIMARY AREA FOR MODERNIZATION/EXPANSION, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE PLANS FOR DOUBLE LINKING THIS LINE. WITHOUT SUCH AN ADDITION, WHICH APPARENTLY WILL NOT OCCUR IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, THE SYSTEM WILL BE UNABLE TO HANDLE ANY SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN VOLUME.

4. IN NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES GUARANTEED BY MIN/ECON AFFAIRS AND FINANCE WOULD BE MORE THAN ADEQUATE FOR LOAN OF THIS AMOUNT. IT HAS BEEN TRUE, HOWEVER, THAT IN RECENT MONTHS CERTAIN GOVERNMENT ENTITIES HAVE NOT MET PAYMENT TIMETABLES ON CONTRACTS. HIGHLY UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT MIN/ECON AFFAIRS AND FINANCE WOULD ITSELF FALL IN THIS CATEGORY.

5. WE ATTEMPTING TO PURSUE QUESTION OF TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT WITH LOCAL SOURCES ALTHOUGH IMMINENCE OF NOW-RUZ (IRANIAN NEW YEAR) MAY PRECLUDE SUBMISSION ADDITIONAL INFORMATION UNTIL EARLY APRIL.

MIKLOS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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